

Fall 8-15-2004

ENG 3010G-001: Literary Masterworks

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English 3010G-001 Literary Masterworks
TTh: 2-3:15 Coleman Hall 3150
Fall semester 2004
Dr. Susan Bazargan
Office Hours: T 12-2 and Th: 3:15-5:15 and by appointment
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This course will introduce you to some of the best fiction produced by British and North American authors of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. We'll mainly focus on the "*bildungsroman*," the novel of formation or education. You'll read and write about issues of identity formation, rites of passage, and the anxieties and problems faced by young people entering adulthood. We'll discuss why this type of novel still remains a favorite genre in fiction and what purposes it serves.

Course requirements:

Class attendance and participation are expected. I call roll regularly and can disregard only two unexcused absences during the semester. If you accumulate more than two unexcused absences, your grade will suffer (1/2 point for each absence). If you're absent because of an illness, please bring with you a note from your doctor or the health care center when you return to class. In case of a family emergency, please stop by my office the first chance you have so that we can talk about classes you've missed.

Papers: You'll write two 4-page papers (typed, double-spaced). If you wish, you can incorporate research material in them (some of the topics require that you do so). ONE of your papers can be revised for a better grade (the first grade will be disregarded). Topics will be assigned later. This is a writing-intensive course, so you can use one of your papers (preferably the revised one) for your writing portfolio.

Journal: You need to write in your journals at least twice a week, each time after you've completed the assigned reading for the upcoming class meeting. I'll expect to see at least 25 entries by the end of the semester. Please date each entry—which can be one page to several pages long. In your journal, write down your thoughts, responses, and, especially *questions* you have regarding the assigned readings. Bring your journals to class. I might ask you to share your questions and insights with the class. I'll ask to see your journals twice during the semester.

Exams and quizzes: You'll take midterm and final exams. They will consist of a number of questions (10-15) to which you'll be asked to provide paragraph-long answers. The midterm exam will cover material studied until the date of the midterm; the final will cover material studied after the midterm. I might give you pop quizzes, especially if I get the feeling you're not keeping up with the reading.

Grading Policy:

Papers: 30%; Exams (and quizzes, if any are given): 40%; Journal: 15%; Participation: 15%

Conferences:

Please stop by my office to discuss any problem or question related to the course. You can make an appointment if my regular office hours are inconvenient for you. The best way to reach me is by e-mail.

Other policies:

Almost all of the novels we're reading have been the subject of a great deal of critical writing. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with what other readers have said and thought about these books; you can draw upon other readers' ideas, as long as you give the authors credit! But if the dark forces ever tempt you to plagiarize, please remember that I'm very good at detecting plagiarism; if you're discovered, I'll be required to give you a grade of F for the course and report you to the Judicial Affairs Office! (This is the English Department policy.) If you're nervous about your writing skills, let me know, and I'll be happy to work with you on an individual basis. Remember that the Writing Center is a great resource for you to use.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Required Texts:

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*
 Cather, Willa. *O Pioneers!*
 Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*
 Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
 Joyce, James. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
 Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*
 Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*
 Spiegelman, Art. *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*

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Class meetings:

August 24: Introduction to the course

8/26: *Great Expectations*, Chaps. 1- 10

8/31: *GE*, Chaps. 11-20

September 2: *GE*, Chaps. 21-31

9/7: *GE*, Chaps. 32- 44

9/9: *GE*, Chaps. 45-end

9/14: *Jane Eyre*, Chaps. 1-10

9/16: *JE*, Chaps. 11-17

9/21: *JE*, Chaps. 18-28

9/23: *JE*, Chaps. 29-end

9/28: *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Part I

9/30: *WSS*, Part II

October 5: *WSS*, Part III

FIRST PAPER IS DUE

October 7: *WSS* and *Jane Eyre* (a discussion)

10/12: Midterm exam

TURN IN JOURNALS

10/14: *Frederick Douglass*, Chaps. 1-5

10/19: *FD*, Chaps. 6-end

10/21: *O Pioneers!* Part I and half of Part II

10/26: *OP*, rest of Part II and Part III

10/28: *OP*, Part IV and V

November 2: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Chaps. 1 and 2)

11/4: *AP*, Chaps 3 and 4

11/9: *AP*, Chap. 5

11/11: *Maus* (first half). **SECOND PAPER IS DUE**

11/16: *Maus* (second half)

11/18: *Life of Pi*, pp. 1-80

THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/30: *Life of Pi*, pp. 80-162. **TURN IN JOURNALS**

December 2: *LP*, pp. 162-256

12/7: *LP*, pp. 256-end

REVISIONS ARE DUE

12/9: Evaluation and review

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, DECEMBER 14, 10:15-12:15.